

# LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW

The Department's Local Bridge Program provides funding for improvements to bridges that are on public roads that are not on the Federal-aid Highway System, known as Off-System bridges. The Local Public Agency (LPA) must make the funding request via a letter to the Department. The request should include the structure number, if available, and a description of the location.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects must be:

- Off the Federal-aid Highway System; and
- On the National Bridge Inventory; and
- Owned by a county, town, township, city, municipality or other local agency, or federally recognized tribe.

Priorities will be given to projects that will address bridges that:

- Are in poor or fair condition; or
- Are posted or operationally restricted; or
- Have demonstrated safety issues.

## GUIDELINES

- The annual maximum Federal-aid funding available for the Local Bridge Program will be announced each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) and will be prioritized and awarded based on statewide needs.
- The number of projects per LPA may be limited per FFY based on availability of funds.
- All phases of approved projects will be eligible for funding.
- The Department will provide Federal-aid funding for the approved projects and the LPA will provide the local match. All phases of approved projects will be funded using 90% Federal, 10% Local.
- Development of approved projects will progress in two steps.
  - Step 1: Development of a feasibility study, including 30% plans and cost estimate.
  - Step 2: Upon completion of the feasibility study and request of the LPA, project will proceed to final design and construction.
- A \$5,000 deposit is required from the LPA before a feasibility study begins.



**200+**

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES  
IN POOR CONDITION



**900+**

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES POSTED  
OR OPERATIONALLY RESTRICTED

**90%**

FEDERAL-AID

**10%**

LOCAL



Program Management Division  
501-569-2481

February 2023

Local Bridge Program projects must be requested via letter by the Local Public Agency that will serve as the project Sponsor. Once a request is received, ARDOT will evaluate the bridge to determine eligibility and notify the Sponsor via letter.

#### MILESTONES

- LPA requests project via letter
- ARDOT determines project eligibility
- LPA passes project resolution and becomes the project Sponsor
- ARDOT and Sponsor execute agreement
- Sponsor submits \$5,000 deposit for feasibility study
- ARDOT provides a feasibility study which includes 30% plans and cost estimate
- Sponsor reviews feasibility study
- ARDOT continues project development upon Sponsor's request
- ARDOT prepares final plans and cost estimate
- ARDOT coordinates with Sponsor for project advertisement
- ARDOT advertises project
- Sponsor submits funding for local share of project
- ARDOT executes construction contract
- Upon completion of improvements, Sponsor assumes responsibility and maintenance of the structure



**Arkansas Department  
of Transportation**  
**Program Management Division**  
**P.O. Box 2261**  
**Little Rock, AR 72203-2261**  
**501-569-2481**